

# National Conference of Metropolitan Courts

Thirty-Seventh  
Annual Conference



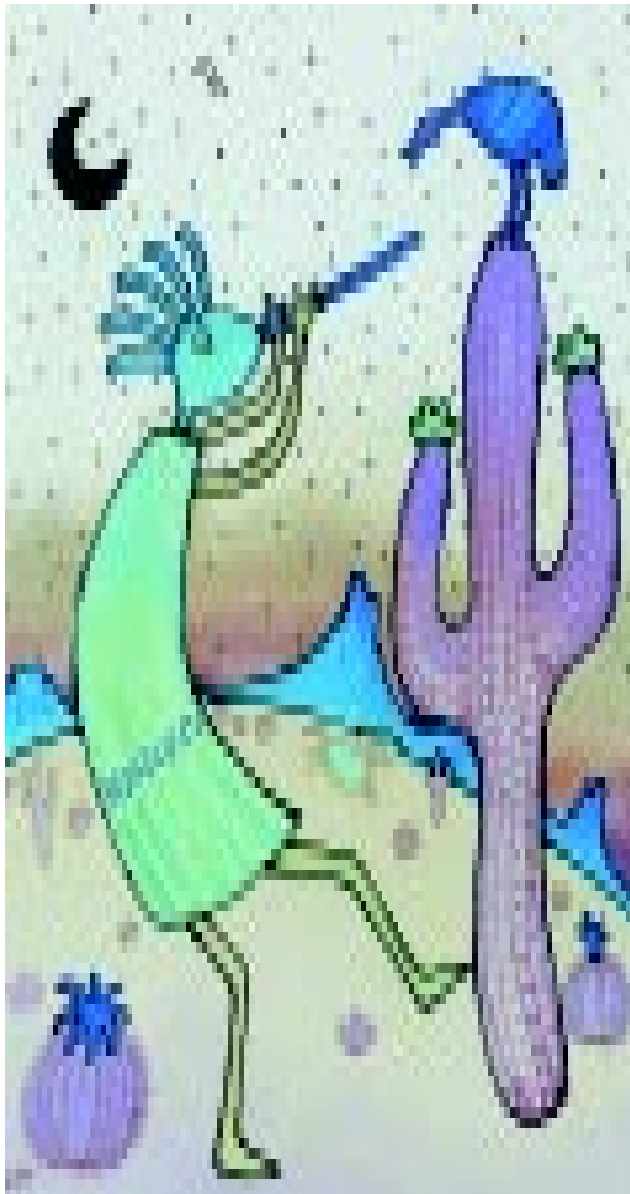
***Justice  
Innovations:  
Courts Helping Courts***



DoubleTree Paradise  
Valley Resort

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Scottsdale, Arizona  
October 6-9, 1999



## REGISTRATION

The Conference registration fee for NCMC members is \$250 and spouse/guest registrations are \$50. This fee covers all Conference and educational materials and attendance at all NCMC social activities except the optional golf and jeep tour on Saturday.

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The DoubleTree Paradise Valley Resort is located at 5401 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, Arizona 85250, telephone number 480.947.5400; fax 480.481.0209. Set amid an oasis of 22 beautifully landscaped acres accented by charming open-air courtyards, fountains and waterfalls, it could not be more aptly named. Located north of historic downtown Scottsdale with its rustic storefronts and Old West look, the resort is just 20 minutes from Sky Harbor International Airport. The resort's amenities include a concierge, an entertainment lounge, gift shop, car rental desk, beauty salon, a fully equipped health club and saunas, two oversized outdoor swimming pools with whirlpool spas and waterfalls, two outdoor, lighted tennis courts and two indoor racquetball courts. Nine championship golf courses are available within 25 minutes of the resort. All rooms and suites offer private balconies or patios.

The room rate of \$145.00 per night plus tax, for a single or double room, is available Tuesday, October 5 through Sunday, October 10. Hotel reservations should be made directly with the DoubleTree no later than September 5, 1999 by calling 480.947.5400. Be sure to indicate that you are attending the NCMC Annual Conference to receive the Conference rate.

## TRANSPORTATION

Sky Harbor International Airport, the 11th busiest U.S. airport, is serviced by 13 major airline carriers and is the hub for America West Airlines.

The resort is located 20 minutes from Sky Harbor International Airport. The major cross streets are Scottsdale and Jackrabbit Roads, in the heart of Scottsdale. Transportation from the airport is available via taxi (approx. \$25), Super Shuttle (approx. \$10-\$14 per person) or Transtyle Limo, Inc. (approx. \$20.00). Arrangements may be made with any of these carriers upon your arrival at the airport.

All major rental car companies are represented at the airport, as well.

## HOTEL PARKING

Parking is available for all Conference attendees at the resort at no additional charge.

## WEATHER

Scottsdale has approximately 350 wonderful sunny days with a maximum average October high temperature of 90 degrees and a minimum low of 62 degrees. Evening temperatures drop 15 to 20 degrees, making comfortable summer and fall nights. Arizona's "dry heat" presents a comfortable contrast to communities with much higher humidity.

## DRESS

The dress for all activities during the Conference, except the Formal Dinner/Dance on Saturday evening, will be casual attire. Our abundance of sunshine makes packing for your Scottsdale adventure a breeze. Just remember our two favorite words -- casual and comfortable. Shorts and golf shirts, western wear and sundresses are popular daytime attire. Evening dress is also casual, and restaurants do not require men's jackets and ties.

### REMEMBER TO BRING:

A hat (wide-brimmed hats offer the best shading and protection), shorts, comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm, a camera (and plenty of film), and a day pack or fanny pack (to carry your camera, film, etc.)

## VENDOR EXHIBITION

Vendors will display their products at the Conference on Thursday, October 7 and Friday, October 8. A Vendor Reception is planned for Thursday, October 7, between 4:00 - 6:00 PM in the exhibit area. Attendees may talk with representatives of the exhibiting companies in a relaxed environment and explore their products firsthand. Since vendors are supporting a portion of the conference, your host committee hopes you'll make every effort to attend this most worthwhile event.

# Conference Program

## JUSTICE INNOVATIONS: COURTS HELPING COURTS

### Wednesday, October 6

- 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Registration
- Noon - 2:00 pm Board of Director's Meeting/  
Luncheon
- 6:30 - 7:00 pm Special First Timer's Reception
- 7:00 - 10:00 pm President's Reception

### Thursday, October 7

- 7:00 - 8:30 am Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 am - 3:00 pm Registration
- 8:30 - 9:00 am Welcome/Opening Session
- 9:00 - 10:30 am **Workshop 1:** *"Revitalizing American Juries: Learning from the reforms in Arizona, Washington, D.C. and New York"*
- 10:30 - 10:45 am Break
- 10:45 - Noon **Workshop 2:** *"Community Courts: How are urban courts reaching out into their communities? What are the results? Are there programs that are right for you and your court?"*
- Noon - 1:30 pm Luncheon
  - *"A Call to Action: Jury Reform"*  
Hon. Judith Chirlin, President, American Judicature Society and Samuel F. Harahan, Executive Director, Council for Court Excellence
- 1:30 - 2:45 pm **Workshop 3:** *"New Ways for Urban Courts to Provide Help for the Self-Represented: How chief judges and court administrators can promote change"*
- 2:45 - 3:00 pm Break
- 3:00 - 4:00 pm **Workshop 4:** *"Cutting Edge Media Relations Programs for Metro Courts: Enhancing public trust and confidence through 'the News'"*
- 4:00 - 6:00 pm Vendor Reception
- 6:30 - 6:45 pm Assemble for Transportation
- 7:00 - 10:00 pm "Scottsdale Art Walk Night on Your Own" - Old Town Scottsdale and Restaurants



### Friday, October 8

- 7:00 - 8:30 am Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 - 10:30 am **Workshop 5:** *"Criminal Caseflow Reform in Urban Courts: Spearheading change by court leaders"*
- 10:30 - 10:45 am Break
- 10:45 - Noon **Workshop 6:** *"Jail Overcrowding and New Ways for Court-Annexed Pretrial Programs to Effectively Respond and Make a Difference"*
- Noon - 1:30 pm Luncheon
  - *"Judicial Stewardship and Leadership: Public Good and the Court"*  
Sister Noreen Sharp, Esq., former Director, Access to Court Services Programs; Administrator, Family Court and Juvenile Court Departments in Superior Court, Maricopa County
- 1:30 - 2:30 pm **Workshop 7:** *"Proven, Court-Centered Programs Dealing With Domestic Violence"*
- 2:30 - 2:45 pm Break
- 2:45 - 3:45 pm **Workshop 8:** *"Prompt and Affordable Justice: The responsibility of urban chief judges and court administrators to streamline caseload management in the court"*
- 6:00 - 6:15 pm Assemble for Transportation
- 7:00 - 10:00 pm Judicial Reception  
The Heard Museum

### Saturday, October 9

- 7:00 - 8:30 am Continental Breakfast
- morning Concurrent Optional Activities
  - Golf
  - Desert Jeep Tour
- 8:30 - 9:30 am Board of Director's Meeting
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm Cocktails - Grand Ballroom
- 7:00 - 11:00 pm Formal Dinner/Dance  
Grand Ballroom



## SOCIAL EVENTS

In addition to a stimulating educational curriculum, exciting sports and social activities are planned. The Conference opens with the President's Reception pool-side on Wednesday evening, October 6. Thursday evening features a "Night On Your Own", allowing you time to enjoy a casual evening attending the Scottsdale Art Walk from 7:00 - 9:00 PM with friends and dining at one of Scottsdale's fine restaurants. Maps of the Art Walk and restaurant suggestions will be in your Conference registration materials.

A Judicial Reception will be held on Friday evening, October 8, at the world-renowned Heard Museum. The Heard Museum contains an outstanding collection of Native American art and artifacts. "Native Peoples of the Southwest" is the museum's award-winning exhibit filled with thousands of the finest pieces of Native American art including basketry, jewelry, pottery and textiles. Also featured are a Navajo hogan, an Apache wickiup and a Hopi corn grinding room. A docent will be on hand to escort you on a guided tour during the cocktail hour.

After an optional day of golf or sightseeing on the jeep tour, Saturday evening's final gala event, a Formal Dinner/Dance, will conclude the Conference with music by the Stiletto's, a local band comprised of lawyers, a judge, paralegals and legal secretaries. And, as usual, a hospitality suite will be available for socializing after all events.

## SPOUSE/GUEST PROGRAM

As a spouse or guest, you will have the opportunity to experience many of the premier tourist attractions in the greater Phoenix area.

After breakfast on Thursday, a tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece, Taliesin West, will take place. This magnificent complex was built as Mr. Wright's personal residence and architectural school and was created from native materials — rocks from the desert floor and sand from the washes. Today, the site still serves as a living, working, educational facility. Set amidst 600 acres of beautiful Sonoran desert, Taliesin West is a National Historic Landmark.

Lunch and an afternoon on your own shopping at Scottsdale Fashion Square, the Southwest's distinctive address for premier shopping and dining, will follow our Taliesin Tour. This collection of over 225

retailers includes scores of prestigious specialty boutiques located nowhere else in Arizona as well as anchor retailers such as Nordstrom, NeimanMarcus, Dillard's and Robinsons-May.

On Friday, after breakfast, we'll tour the Desert Botanical Garden, nestled amid the buttes of Papago Park in the heart of metropolitan Phoenix. Opened in 1939 by the Arizona Cactus and Native Flora Society, the Garden exhibits, conserves and showcases arid-land plants of the world. The Garden is home to one of the world's largest and most diverse collection of succulent plants, including rare, threatened and endangered species from the world's deserts. After a docent-led tour, we'll relax over lunch at the Patio Cafe on Ullman Terrace.

## OPTIONAL GOLF

This year's NCMC golf outing will be held at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club on Saturday morning, October 9. The McCormick Ranch Golf Club features two Desmond Muirhead designed, 18-hole golf courses, the Palm and the Pine, which were built in 1971. Both of these courses, which are among the most popular in the Valley of the Sun, are more than 7,000 yards long. The Palm has 10 water holes, and as its name suggests, has numerous, large palm trees dotted throughout the fairways. The Pine is characterized by narrow fairways, which issue a sportful challenge, featuring a multitude of mature pine trees. Recently, hole No. 9 on the Palm - the course's signature hole because of its unique, island fairway - was included among America's top-18 water holes, as selected by Golf Illustrated. The course also features practice putting greens, a driving range, and two chipping greens with sand traps.

The fee for golf is \$100, which includes cart rental and a box lunch. Club rental is an additional \$30.00. So bring your sticks and come enjoy a great outing at a truly memorable golf course.

## OPTIONAL DESERT JEEP TOUR

Experience the awesome beauty of the Sonoran Desert with authentic cowboy guides....a wonderful introduction to Arizona's scenic backcountry. Off-road tours are an excellent way to enjoy the desert's Old West history and experience its beautiful flora and fauna. Colorful guides provide entertaining stories (including a tall tale or two!) as well as interesting facts about the cacti, plants and animals that make up the desert's delicate ecosystem. So, hold on to your hats - the jeeps are "open air" to let the desert breezes in!

This optional tour will coincide with the Saturday morning golf outing and will last approximately 4 hours. Cost for this unforgettable experience is \$65.00. Jeeps will pick up those wishing to go at the resort lobby at approximately 8:00 AM. Casual dress is encouraged.

## SPORTING EVENTS

Phoenix is one of only a handful of U.S. cities that boast professional teams in four major sports: the NBA's Phoenix Suns, the NHL's Phoenix Coyotes, Major League Baseball's Arizona Diamondbacks and the NFL's Arizona Cardinals all call Greater Phoenix home. Add to that the Arizona Rattlers, an arena football team, the Phoenix Mercury, a charter franchise in the Women's National Basketball Association, the Sun Devils teams at Arizona State University and a sports enthusiast should never lack for something to do! Sporting event schedules will be available should you want to attend one of the games or events on your October visit.

The Original Coors Rodeo Showdown, to be held at the America West Arena, is also planned for the weekend of October 8-10, 1999. And, of course, don't forget that the "Valley of the Sun" has thousands of tennis courts, and hundreds of miles of hiking and horseback riding trails.

## DAY TRIPS

Greater Phoenix, with its convenient central Arizona location, is ideally positioned for day trips around the state. A few favorite excursions include: Flagstaff and the Grand Canyon, Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon, the Verde Canyon Railroad, Tucson and San Xavier del Bac Mission, the Apache Trail, and Nogales (Mexico), as well as a wide variety of historical sites and Native American archaeological locations.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY OPTIONS

If you'd like still more adventure, you might consider one of the following: the new Scottsdale Center for Modern Art, museums, galleries, antique shops, Native American gaming casinos, the Phoenix Zoo and wild animal parks, hot-air balloon adventures, and water recreation activities. All within a few miles of the Conference hotel.

## SPOUSE/GUEST PROGRAM

Included in Registration Fee

### Wednesday, October 6

6:30 - 7:00 pm	First Timer's Reception
7:00 - 10:00 pm	President's Reception

### Thursday, October 7

7:00 - 8:30 am	Continental Breakfast
9:00 - 9:15 am	Assemble for Transportation
9:45 - 11:15 am	Taliesin West Tour
Noon - 4:00 pm	Shopping at Scottsdale Fashion Square
	Lunch on Your Own
6:30 - 6:45 pm	Assemble for Transportation
7:00 - 10:00 pm	"Scottsdale Art Walk Night On Your Own" - Old Town Scottsdale and Restaurants

### Friday, October 8

7:00 - 8:30 am	Continental Breakfast
10:00 - 10:15 am	Assemble for Transportation
10:45 - 1:30 pm	Desert Botanical Garden
	Lunch on Ullman Terrace
6:00 - 6:15 pm	Assemble for Transportation
7:00 - 10:00 pm	Judicial Reception
	The Heard Museum (casual dress)

### Saturday, October 9

7:00 - 8:30 am	Continental Breakfast
6:00 - 7:00 pm	Cocktails
7:00 - 11:00 pm	Formal Dinner/Dance (formal dress)
	The Grand Ballroom





# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

## JUSTICE INNOVATIONS: COURTS HELPING COURTS



A unique and important virtue among governmental institutions in America is their willingness to collaborate and share innovations. To help each other improve. This Conference of Metropolitan Courts is dedicated to celebrating that capacity among justice systems...our ability to learn from one another.

Many contend we have more in common than separates us as urban courts. Individually, we struggle with similar political funding bodies — counties, states, cities. We all are subject to leadership transition, occasionally creating difficulties for program continuity. Constant readjustments in the court's caseload and judicial assignment functions are often necessary to reduce delay, accommodate new case types, and adjust to differing work styles or capacities among trial judges. Salaries languish and must constantly be nurtured. Space for new judges and improvements in out-dated courthouses present challenges beyond simple solutions.

And, the problems go on endlessly. Amid these difficulties, there may be some solace in knowing that other chief judges and court administrators face similar urban issues. Beyond the comfort of knowing is the hope that short cuts to improvements and new insights about old problems may be gained through understanding more about other courts and their solutions. Such is the foundation for this Conference.

One of our greatest strengths as America's urban court leaders is our knowledge about each other and our willingness to take advice, heed cautions and embrace new ideas tested by colleagues in distant places. Tomorrow's courts may be defined as much by what they share with the national community of courts as by how they serve their local constituents.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

9:00 - 10:30 AM

**WORKSHOP 1:** Revitalizing American Juries: Learning from the reforms in Arizona, Washington, D.C. and New York.

**SESSION OVERVIEW:**

This panel session brings the leading reformers in the jury modernization movement together in a "how-to" seminar focused on helping urban court leaders implement change in the justice system. Numerous states, trial courts and court-centered research groups are exploring ways to broaden and diversify the jury pool, methods to make jury service less of a burden, and techniques to involve juries more actively in the trial process. In this session, you will learn more about these reforms and how you can spearhead change in your home community.

10:45 - Noon

**WORKSHOP 2:** Community Courts: How are urban courts reaching out into their communities? What are the results? Are there programs that are right for you and your court?

**SESSION OVERVIEW:**

Many metropolitan courts are decentralizing and re-shaping services in new and important ways in the neighborhoods of their cities. The Manhattan Court Project, housed in a Times Square office building, has brought judges out of the courthouse and into the community where faster and more permanent results seem to be taking place in reducing quality of life crimes (i.e. small drug possession offenses, prostitution, petty theft, ordinance and housing violations, etc.). The U.S. Department of Justice has recently promoted the concept of community courts, opening new avenues of federal funding to urban courts that are willing to experiment with different approaches. What advantages and disadvantages do community courts offer? What are good models for limited and general jurisdiction courts? This workshop provides many answers from those who have been there or are going there.

12:50 - 1:15 PM Luncheon Program

Speaker: Hon. Judith Chirlin, President, American Judicature Society and Sam Harahan, Executive Director, Council for Court Excellence

"A Call To Action: The National Conference of Metropolitan Courts should lead the effort in restoring America's pride in jury service through a National Awareness Program coordinated and grounded in a consortium of like-minded courts".

1:30 - 2:45 PM

**WORKSHOP 3:** New Ways for Urban Courts to Help the Self-Represented: How chief judges and court administrators can promote change.

**SESSION OVERVIEW:**

This workshop outlines the trends, options and approaches judicial and court leaders should know regarding the "do it yourself" movement in civil legal matters. Some court watchers have dubbed this changed world "Justice Depot". The Superior Court in Maricopa County has been involved in this subject from the beginning and is happy to share some insights that may help in your back yard.

3:00 - 4:00 PM

**WORKSHOP 4:** Cutting Edge Media Relations Programs for Metro Courts: Enhancing public trust and confidence through "the News".

**SESSION OVERVIEW:**

Courts have an obligation, as public institutions, to provide easy access to the media and educate the community about the justice system through newsworthy events. Courts that promote good relations with the media often find very positive outcomes. As chief judges and court administrators, what are things you can do to enhance the image of your court? Where are the pitfalls and "slippery slopes"? How does a court maintain a sense of balance with the local media?

Courts with strong, productive media relations programs are more than willing to share their secrets. This program should provide some provocative and useful insights.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

9:00 - 10:30 AM

**WORKSHOP 5:** Criminal Caseload Reform in Urban Courts: Spearheading change by court leaders.

**SESSION OVERVIEW:**

Criminal case filings continue to rise in the nation's urban courts, placing increasing burdens on both limited and general jurisdiction courts. Court leaders must constantly monitor and structure improvements in caseload patterns or risk letting the court drift "out of control", where calendars are overcrowded, delay begets greater delay, and justice suffers. How are urban courts reforming criminal caseload in today's world? What are the essential elements to ensuring the responsible movement of criminal cases from filing to disposition? Dr. Barry Mahoney and Professor Ernie Friesen, along with urban court leaders, outline "the good, the bad and the ugly" in streamlining criminal systems.

10:45 - Noon

**WORKSHOP 6:** Jail Overcrowding and New Ways for Court-Annexed Pretrial Programs to Effectively Respond, Making a Difference.

**SESSION OVERVIEW:**

Jail overcrowding, a national problem affecting America's urban courts, often unwittingly thrusts court leaders in the middle of major controversy. Over 600,000 people are in jail throughout the U.S. Many metro courts operate pretrial programs to aid initial appearance judges in making sound release decisions and overseeing released defendants. There are new methods to assess flight and public safety risks, as well as a growing array of pretrial supervision options. Join Allan Henry, Director, National Pretrial Center and a group of judges and pretrial professionals for some new insights.

12:50 - 1:15 PM Luncheon Program

Speaker: Sister Noreen Sharp, Esq., former Director, Access to Court Services Programs; Administrator, Family Court and Juvenile Court Departments in Superior Court, Maricopa County

"Judicial Stewardship and Leadership: Public Good and the Court"

1:30 - 2:30 PM

**WORKSHOP 7:** Proven, Court-Centered Programs Dealing With Domestic Violence

**SESSION OVERVIEW:**

A root cause of many criminal, civil, and juvenile court cases in courts today is the increasing level of domestic violence in society. Swift, fair responses are necessary to promote positive behavior change. Productive programs involving courts range from prevention and education efforts, to special domestic violence proceedings and post-adjudicatory monitoring and follow up. What works and what doesn't? Once understanding the array of options, how can you spearhead needed change in your court or community? Join court professionals for this provocative discussion.

2:45 - 3:45 PM

**WORKSHOP 8:** Prompt and Affordable Justice: The Responsibility of Urban Chief Judges and Court Administrators to Streamline Caseload Management in the Court.

**SESSION OVERVIEW:**

Urban state courts handle much of the nation's civil litigation. In the midst of limited resources, rising filings, and ever-pressing needs to allocate more judicial time to criminal matters, civil case responsibilities in metro courts are under attack. Rent-a-judge programs and contractual agreements among businesses to avoid overburdened, slow court processes by channeling disputes to binding arbitration are becoming commonplace. Cumbersome discovery processes delay case processing and, often, unnecessary and time consuming motions proliferate and confound quick decisions. Join Dr. Barry Mahoney, and other experts, in an exploration of solutions which can be tailored to your needs.